

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

111617Z Dec 05

UNCLAS LAGOS 001869

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

STATE PASS FAA FOR ACONLEY,  
TRANSPORTATION FOR FAA; DAKAR PLEASE PASS TO FAA REP ED  
JONES; ROME PLEASE PASS TO TSA REP JOHN HALINSKI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [FAIR](#) [CASC](#) [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [NI](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: SOSOLISO AIRPLANE CRASH:CONSULAR AND NTSB  
OFFICIALS ON SITE

REF: ABUJA 2387

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Mission Confirms Amcit Onboard;Dispatches  
Consular Team;No News From Next-Of-Kin  
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1. (U) In response to the December 10 Sosoliso flight OSL 1145 air crash, Mission sent a two-member consular response team (CRT) to Port Harcourt on December 11 to observe the crash site, to ascertain the number of Amcits involved, and follow up on Amcit casualties. The Nigerian Red Cross reported 103 passengers and 7 crew members onboard the plane with only 5 survivors, all in critical condition. Most of the bodies are severely burned but have been secured and taken to local mortuaries. Already, we know that one Amcit, Hawa Kamara, was onboard the flight from Abuja to Port Harcourt. We have not yet been able to reach the next-of-kin of Ms. Kamara. The emergency contact she provided has not yet responded to us and Post has alerted the Embassy in Monrovia where her parents reside. There are unconfirmed reports that two of the students from the Jesuit school might have been Amcits. The CRT is visiting local hospitals and mortuaries to determine the status of Ms. Kamara and other possible Amcits.

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NTSB Rep & Nigerian Officials Visit Site,  
Locate Data Recorders  
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2. (U) National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) Representative Dennis Jones went to Port Harcourt Airport today and reported the flight data and cockpit voice recorders have been found. The NTSB Rep reported the airplane crashed 2,100 feet from the beginning of the runway and approximately 240 feet left of the runway. The plane crashed into a ditch, hitting a concrete wall inside the ditch, Accidents Investigation and Prevention Bureau (AIPB) Director Angus Ozoka said. The plane broke into several fragments and also caught fire. Ozoka intends to send the recorders to the United Kingdom for analysis.

3. (U) The tragedy was compounded by the poor emergency preparedness at the airport. Of the four fire trucks there, only one functioned and that vehicle lacked water.

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Police Attempting to Secure Site, But  
Obstacles Remain  
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4. (U) Police have secured the crash site at Port Harcourt Airport. NTSB's Jones and Nigerian Red Cross officials reported the site is much better secured than the site of the October Bellview crash, but AIPB Director Ozoka complained Nigerian media were trying to get access into the crash site.

5. (U) This cable has been cleared by Embassy Abuja DCM Tom Furey.  
BROWNE